GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3687
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2016
ODF States
Singh Shri Hukum

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sikkim has been ranked asthe cleanest State of rural India and if so,the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the details of the findings by theNational Sample Survey Organisation inthis regard;

(c) whether there is improvement intoilet coverage since the launch of theSwachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and thepercentage of the villages free of opendefecation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not,the reasons therefor, along with fundssanctioned/released for the purpose underSBM State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a) Yes, Madam. Sikkim was ranked the cleanest State as per the SwachhSurvekshan-Gramin Report (2016), based on the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization in 2015. The State-wise ranking is at Annexure 1.

(b) The main findings of the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization in 2015 are as follows:

â€¢ 47.9%people were found to have access to a household/community toilet and using the same
â€¢ 45.30% Households were found to have sanitary toilets
â€¢ Out of households having sanitary toilets,95.6 % persons were found using them
â€¢ Out of the households having toilets,93.9 % households had access to water for use in toilet
â€¢ 55.4% households contributed to Open Defecation
(c) Sanitation Coverage, which was 42.01 % on the launch of SBM(G) on 2.10.2014, has increased to 57.72% on 5.12.2016. Out of 608241 Villages, 125400 (20.62%) Villages have declared themselves as Open Defecation Free (ODF) as on 5-12-2016.

(d) The programme focuses on behaviour change and engagement of communities.It involves change of mindset amongst people to stop open defecation and to adopt safe sanitation practices. Since this requires engagement of community and skill in facilitation, the process takes some time. The challenges pertain to capacity building of the implementing machinery, continuing focus on community involvement and collective (i.e. village as a whole) behaviour change, promoting flexibility, so that States take a lead and choose approach best suited to them, targeting district leadership, so that Collectors lead the programme proactively, promoting technological innovations, making the campaign a Janandolan, streamlining financial and programme management, converging other development schemes with sanitation to promote sustainability and having a robust monitoring and evaluation system to measure both outputs and outcomes.

In order to address the above challenges, a number of measures have been taken/being taken. These include:
â€¢ Focus on behavior change: Community based collective behavior change has been mentioned as the preferred approach, although the States are free to choose the approach best suited to them. Focus is also on creation of complete open defecation free (ODF) villages, rather than only on construction of individual toilets. This entails triggering the entire village into changing their behavior rather than dealing individually with beneficiaries.
â€¢ The programme provides flexibility to the States in the implementation. This is essential, given the vast socio-economic-cultural diversity of India, and also from the point of view of promoting innovations.
â€¢ There is a greater emphasis on capacity building, especially in community approaches and programme management. Lack of adequate capacities is a major challenge in scaling up the programme. Therefore, various initiatives are being taken to reach out to all the stakeholders. From the Government of India side, the States and select organizations (called Key Resource Centres) are being trained. These in turn are, carrying out trainings at the sub-State level. The key official at the district level-Collector-has been roped in the programme to provide leadership at the district level. They are being exposed to best practices, both through workshops and exposure visits. More than 450 Collectors from across the country have been trained. In order to provide exposure to officers at their entry level itself, a training module has been developed for LBSNAA, Mussoorie. The IAS and other Group A probationers are being given training for better implementation of SBM(G), including 'triggering' behavior change in communities.
â€¢ The programme is being run as a janandolan with cooperation of all sections of the society including the NGOs, Corporates, youth etc. The Panchayats are being actively involved.
â€¢ There is an emphasis on streamlining administrative and financial procedures, both to cut down on time, as well as to increase accountability.
â€¢ Innovations in technology is being promoted at the National and State levels. There is a National Committee under Prof. R.M.

Mashelkar that examines all new technologies from the point of view of safety and feasibility.
â€¢ Sanitation is being prioritized amongst the overall development agenda. The Government has taken a decision to prioritise all Centrally Sponsored Schemes in ODF villages. Various other development schemes are being converged with the sanitation outcomes.
â€¢ Monitoring and Evaluation has also been strengthened. The IMIS has data up to household level, with provision to capture geo-tagged photographs of toilets. A Swachhta App has been developed that provides online information on sanitation status up to household level. The citizens can also do ranking of swachhta on the Swachh App.

State/UT-wise, Central share released under SBM(G) from 2.10.2014 to 5.12.2016as per Online Integrated Management Information System of SBM(G) is at Annexure-2.